

claim

1. A locking assembly for a rocking chair, said locking assembly being suitable for retaining a body supporting portion of the chair relative to a chair base portion of the chair in a certain position, said locking assembly comprising :
 - a first locking assembly component for connection to one of the body supporting portion and the chair base portion;
 - a second locking assembly component for connection to the other of the body supporting portion and the chair base portion;
 - said second locking assembly component including a pin;
 - said first locking assembly component including :
 - i. a pair of jaws;
 - ii. a linkage coupled to at least one of said jaws, at least one of said jaws being responsive to a first movement of said linkage to undergo displacement with relation to the other jaw such as to cause engagement of said pin between said jaws, at least one of said jaws being responsive to a second movement of said linkage to cause release of said pin between said jaws.
2. A locking assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein said second locking assembly component includes a plurality of pins selectively engageable by said jaws to interlock said first locking assembly component with said second locking assembly component.
3. A locking assembly as defined in claim 2, wherein said jaws are responsive to said first movement of said linkage such that each jaw undergoes displacement with relation to the other jaw to define a receptacle between said jaws for engaging said pin.
4. A locking assembly as defined in claim 3, wherein said jaws include gripping faces that define between them said receptacle, said gripping

faces tapering toward one another to form a pin-retention area where said pin is engaged by the gripping face of each jaw.

5. A locking assembly as defined in claim 4, wherein said jaws are responsive to said first movement of said linkage such that each jaw undergoes displacement with relation to the other jaw to define a receptacle between said jaws for engaging said pin and for moving said pin such as to cause said pin to enter said receptacle.
6. A locking assembly as defined in claim 5, wherein said jaws are responsive to said first movement of said linkage such that each jaw undergoes displacement with relation to the other jaw to define a receptacle between said jaws for engaging said pin and for moving said receptacle toward said pin such as to cause said pin to enter said pin-retention area of said receptacle.
7. A locking assembly as defined in claim 5, wherein said jaws pivot in response to said first movement.
8. A locking assembly as defined in claim 7, wherein in response to said first movement, one of said jaws pivot clockwise and the other of said jaws pivots counter-clockwise.
9. A locking assembly as defined in claim 8, wherein said linkage includes a rotatable bar, one of said jaws being mounted to said rotatable bar to turn therewith when said bar is rotated.
10. A locking assembly as defined in claim 9, comprising a link member between said jaws, wherein when one of said jaws is caused to rotate by said bar, said link member causes the other of said jaws to rotate.
11. A locking assembly as defined in claim 8, wherein said jaws further include camming surfaces for engaging said pin, said camming surfaces responsive to movement of the body supporting portion of the

chair to cause said jaws to undergo displacement with relation to each other for moving said receptacle toward said pin such as to cause said pin to enter said pin-retention area of said receptacle.

12. A locking assembly as defined in claim 11, wherein when the camming surface of one of said jaws engages said pin, the camming surface causes said jaw to move with relation to the other jaw in response to movement of the body supporting portion of the chair, for moving said receptacle toward said pin such as to cause said pin to enter said pin-retention area of said receptacle.
13. A locking assembly as defined in claim 12, wherein when the camming surface of one of said jaws engages said pin, the camming surface of said jaw causes said jaw to pivot in response to movement of the body supporting portion of the chair, for passing the camming surface of said jaw over said pin such as to move said receptacle toward said pin and cause said pin to enter said pin-retention area of said receptacle.
14. A locking assembly as defined in claim 8, wherein said linkage includes an actuator bar rotatable about a pivot axis, both of said jaws being mounted to said actuator bar to pivot therewith when said bar is rotated about said pivot axis.
15. A locking assembly as defined in claim 14, wherein said jaws include arcuate slots, said actuator bar including a pin received in said arcuate slots whereby rotation of said actuator bar about said pivot axis imparts a pivotal movement to said jaws.
16. A locking assembly as defined in claim 15, wherein during said first movement, said actuator bar rotates in a first direction to a lower limit position in which said pin of said actuator bar is wedged in the arcuate slots of said jaws.

17. A locking assembly as defined in claim 16, wherein rotation of said actuator bar in said first direction causes said jaws to move with relation to each other for defining said receptacle, in said lower limit position said receptacle receiving said pin in said pin-retention area of said receptacle.
18. A locking assembly as defined in claim 17, wherein during said second movement, said actuator bar rotates in a second direction opposite said first direction, rotation of said actuator bar in said second direction causing said jaws to move with relation to each other for releasing said pin from said receptacle.
19. A rocking chair, comprising :
- a body supporting portion;
 - a chair base portion, said body supporting portion capable to rock with respect to said chair base portion;
 - a locking assembly including :
 - a first locking assembly component for connection to one of said body supporting portion and said chair base portion;
 - a second locking assembly component for connection to the other of said body supporting portion and said chair base portion;
 - said second locking assembly component including a pin;
 - said first locking assembly component including :
 - i. a pair of jaws;
 - ii. a linkage coupled to at least one of said jaws, at least one of said jaws being responsive to a first movement of said linkage to undergo displacement with relation to the other jaw such as to cause engagement of said pin between said jaws, at least one of said jaws being responsive to a second movement of said linkage to cause release of said pin between said jaws.

20. A rocking chair as defined in claim 19, wherein said second locking assembly component includes a plurality of pins selectively engageable by said jaws to interlock said body-supporting portion with respect to said chair base portion.
21. A rocking chair as defined in claim 20, wherein said jaws are responsive to said first movement of said linkage such that each jaw undergoes displacement with relation to the other jaw to define a receptacle between said jaws for engaging said pin.
22. A rocking chair as defined in claim 21, wherein said jaws include gripping faces that define between them said receptacle, said gripping faces tapering toward one another to form a pin-retention area where said pin is engaged by the gripping face of each jaw.
23. A rocking chair as defined in claim 22, wherein said jaws are responsive to said first movement of said linkage such that each jaw undergoes displacement with relation to the other jaw to define a receptacle between said jaws for engaging said pin and for moving said receptacle toward said pin such as to cause said pin to enter said receptacle.
24. A rocking chair as defined in claim 23, wherein said jaws are responsive to said first movement of said linkage such that each jaw undergoes displacement with relation to the other jaw to define a receptacle between said jaws for engaging said pin and for moving said receptacle toward said pin such as to cause said pin to enter said pin-retention area of said receptacle.
25. A rocking chair as defined in claim 24, wherein said jaws pivot in response to said first movement.

26. A rocking chair as defined in claim 25, wherein in response to said first movement, one of said jaws pivots clockwise and the other of said jaws pivots counter-clockwise.
27. A rocking chair as defined in claim 26, wherein said linkage includes a rotatable bar, one of said jaws being mounted to said rotatable bar to turn therewith when said bar is rotated.
28. A rocking chair as defined in claim 27, comprising a link member between said jaws, wherein when one of said jaws is caused to rotate by said bar, said link member causes the other of said jaws to rotate.
29. A rocking chair as defined in claim 20, wherein said plurality of pins are disposed along a line that extends along a path of travel followed by said jaws when said body-supporting portion rocks with respect to said chair base portion, said jaws being operative to engage a selected one of said pins to interlock said body-supporting portion with said chair base portion at a position corresponding to said selected one of said pins.
30. A rocking chair as defined in claim 22, wherein in response to said first movement said jaws undergo displacement such as to cause the gripping faces of said jaws to move away from one another and also to move toward said pin.
31. A rocking chair as defined in claim 30, wherein in response to said second movement, said gripping jaws moving away from said pin.
32. A rocking chair as defined in claim 31, wherein in response to said second movement, said gripping jaws move toward one another and also away from said pin.
33. A rocking chair as defined in claim 26, wherein said jaws further include camming surfaces for engaging said pin, said camming

surfaces responsive to movement of the body supporting portion of the chair to cause said jaws to undergo displacement with relation to each other for moving said receptacle toward said pin such as to cause said pin to enter said pin-retention area of said receptacle.

34. A rocking chair as defined in claim 33, wherein when the camming surface of one of said jaws engages said pin, the camming surface causes said jaw to move with relation to the other jaw in response to movement of the body supporting portion of the chair, for moving said receptacle toward said pin such as to cause said pin to enter said pin-retention area of said receptacle.
35. A rocking chair as defined in claim 34, wherein when the camming surface of one of said jaws engages said pin, the camming surface of said jaw causes said jaw to pivot in response to movement of the body supporting portion of the chair, for passing the camming surface of said jaw over said pin such as to move said receptacle toward said pin and cause said pin to enter said pin-retention area of said receptacle.
36. A rocking chair as defined in claim 26, wherein said linkage includes an actuator bar rotatable about a pivot axis, both of said jaws being mounted to said actuator bar to pivot therewith when said bar is rotated about said pivot axis.
37. A rocking chair as defined in claim 36, wherein said jaws include arcuate slots, said actuator bar including a pin received in said arcuate slots whereby rotation of said actuator bar about said pivot axis imparts a pivotal movement to said jaws.
38. A rocking chair as defined in claim 37, wherein during said first movement, said actuator bar rotates in a first direction to a lower limit position in which said pin of said actuator bar is wedged in the arcuate slots of said jaws.

39. A rocking chair as defined in claim 38, wherein rotation of said actuator bar in said first direction causes said jaws to move with relation to each other for defining said receptacle, in said lower limit position said receptacle receiving said pin in said pin-retention area of said receptacle.

40. A rocking chair as defined in claim 39, wherein during said second movement, said actuator bar rotates in a second direction opposite said first direction, rotation of said actuator bar in said second direction causing said jaws to move with relation to each other for releasing said pin from said receptacle.

41. A chair, comprising:

- a. a body-supporting portion, including:
 - i. a seat;
 - ii. a backrest;
- b. a chair base portion, said body supporting portion capable to move with respect to said chair base portion;
- c. a locking assembly, including:
 - i. a first locking assembly component mounted to one of said body-supporting portion and said chair base portion;
 - ii. a second locking assembly component mounted to the other of said body-supporting portion and said chair base portion;
- d. a linkage including a strip of resilient material mounted to said backrest, said strip of resilient material having a resiliency such that:
 - i. when an occupant applies pressure on said backrest said strip is deformed rearwardly from an original position;
 - ii. when the pressure applied by the occupant ceases, said strip returns to said original position;
- e. said linkage operatively connected to said locking assembly to cause:

- i. engagement of said first and second locking assembly components for preventing movement of said body supporting portion relative to said chair base portion when said strip is in said original position;
 - ii. release of the engagement of said first and second locking assembly components when said strip is deformed rearwardly from said original position.
- 42. A chair as defined in claim 41, wherein said second locking assembly component includes a pin.
- 43. A chair as defined in claim 42, wherein said first locking assembly component includes a pair of jaws, at least one of said jaws being responsive to the return of said strip to said original position to undergo displacement with relation to the other jaw such as to cause engagement of said pin between said jaws, at least one of said jaws being responsive to the rearwardly deformation of said strip to cause release of said pin from between said jaws.
- 44. A chair as defined in claim 43, wherein said second locking assembly component includes a plurality of pins selectively engageable by said jaws to interlock said first locking assembly component with said second locking assembly component.
- 45. A chair as defined in claim 44, wherein said jaws are responsive to the return of said strip to said original position such that each jaw undergoes displacement with relation to the other jaw to define a receptacle between said jaws for engaging said pin.
- 46. A chair as defined in claim 45, wherein said jaws include gripping faces that define between them said receptacle, said gripping faces tapering toward one another to form a pin-retention area where said pin is engaged by the gripping face of each jaw.

47. A chair as defined in claim 46, wherein said jaws are responsive to the return of said strip to said original position such that each jaw undergoes displacement with relation to the other jaw to define a receptacle between said jaws for engaging said pin and for moving said pin such as to cause said pin to enter said receptacle.
48. A chair as defined in claim 47, wherein said jaws are responsive to the return of said strip to said original position such that each jaw undergoes displacement with relation to the other jaw to define a receptacle between said jaws for engaging said pin and for moving said receptacle toward said pin such as to cause said pin to enter said pin-retention area of said receptacle.
49. A chair as defined in claim 48, wherein said jaws pivot in response to the return of said strip to said original position.
50. A chair as defined in claim 49, wherein in response to the return of said strip to said original position, one of said jaws pivot clockwise and the other of said jaws pivots counter-clockwise.
51. A chair as defined in claim 50, wherein said first locking assembly component further includes an actuator bar rotatable about a pivot axis, both of said jaws being mounted to said actuator bar to pivot therewith when said bar is rotated about said pivot axis.
52. A chair as defined in claim 51, wherein said jaws include arcuate slots, said actuator bar including a pin received in said arcuate slots whereby rotation of said actuator bar about said pivot axis imparts a pivotal movement to said jaws.
53. A chair as defined in claim 52, wherein during the return of said strip to said original position, said actuator bar rotates in a first direction to a lower limit position in which said pin of said actuator bar is wedged in the arcuate slots of said jaws.

54. A chair as defined in claim 53, wherein rotation of said actuator bar in said first direction causes said jaws to move with relation to each other for defining said receptacle, in said lower limit position said receptacle receiving said pin in said pin-retention area of said receptacle.
55. A chair as defined in claim 54, wherein during the rearwardly deformation of said strip from said original position, said actuator bar rotates in a second direction opposite said first direction, rotation of said actuator bar in said second direction causing said jaws to move with relation to each other for releasing said pin from said receptacle.
56. A chair as defined in claim 55, wherein said linkage further includes a cable section connecting said strip to said actuator bar, said cable section operative to impart movement of said strip to said actuator bar.
57. A chair as defined in claim 56, wherein one end of said cable section is fixedly attached to said actuator bar, the other end of said cable section being coupled to said strip whereby the rearwardly deformation of said strip from said original position causes said cable section to apply a pulling force on said actuator bar for rotating said actuator bar in said second direction, causing said jaws to move toward each other and away from said pin.
58. A chair as defined in claim 57, wherein the return of said strip to said original position causes said cable section to cease the application of said pulling force on said actuator bar such that said actuator bar rotates in said first direction, causing said jaws to move away from each other and toward said pin such that said pin is received in said pin-retention area of said receptacle.